LEADING
THE DEVELOPMENT OF
SA FAMILY MEDICINE
DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY MEDICINE SPECIALTY

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BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ACADEMY AND COLLEGE

• The health profession’s response to specialization

• 1947 The American Academy of General Practice (later renamed the American Academy of Family Physicians)

• 1952 The College of General Practitioners in Britain
  – Faculties of General Practice in South Africa affiliated to the British College

• 1969 The SA College of General Practitioners
BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ACADEMY AND COLLEGE....

• 1970   The Faculty of General Practice of the College of Medicine of South Africa

• 1972   The first examination of Membership of the Faculty of General Practice (MFGP)

• 1980   The South African Academy of Family Practice/Primary Care

• 1994   The College of Family Practitioners (of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa)
VOCATIONAL TRAINING

- Need for post graduate training before independent practice
- Widespread acceptance during the 70’s
- Became mandatory in Britain
- Residency programmes in North America
Attempts for mandatory training in SA since the 70’s

In 2001, The SA Medical and Dental Professions Board sanctioned its committee for General Practice to develop a recommendation for future training in General/Family Practice

The SA Medical and Dental Board decided that post graduate training in Family medicine be mandatory for independent practice in General/Family Practice
FUTURE TRAINING IN FAMILY MEDICINE

- Mandatory post graduate vocational training before independent general/family practice
- Current general practitioners in practice to continue in a sunset clause
Proposal for vocational training before independent general practice was “abandoned”.

As an unnecessary barrier to independent practice – an addition service time to internship and community service
NEW PROPOSAL

- Leave independent general practice alone

- Create a new specialty in family medicine – specialist family physician for public service.

- Family Physicians to work in rural district hospitals and Community Health Centers and as Provincial and District Managers
BOARD DECISION

- Rejected the proposal
- Family Medicine Committee recommended Specialist Physician for public and private.
- No such training required for entry into private GP work
- The Medical and Dental Board passed a resolution to allow Family Medicine onto the specialist register
- Family Physicians taking up positions as Specialists in District health Systems
A collaborative Flemish (ICHO) Academy/FaMEC project to develop VT sites throughout the country

Existing holders of MCGP and MCFP to convert to Fellowship of the College of Family Physicians in a “grand parent clause”

ICHO project for Family Medicine training in East Africa
CURRENT HPCSA REGISTRATION

- Medical Practitioners (GP with or without additional training)

- Medical Practitioners with post graduate qualification in family medicine – Family Physicians (Fellows and MMeds)

- Medical Practitioners with specialist training in family medicine – specialist physicians in family medicine
CURRENT SITUATION IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

- General /Family Practitioners
- Family Physicians
- Specialist Physicians in Family Medicine
THE FUTURE .........

• Up for discussion

• Thank You

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